of production, coal India Limited requested the Govt. for upward revision of coal prices. The same was considered and the prices of coal have been revised w.e.f. 9-1-1986. On account of this revision the average pit-head price of coal produced by Coal India Limited has become Rs. 210.00 per tonne from Rs. 183.00 per tonne and that of coal produced by Singareni Colleries Co. Ltd. has become Rs. 219.00 per tonne from that of Rs. 192.00 per tonne. The price of soft coke for romestic consumption has been kept at Rs. 175.00 per tonne which has been prevailing since 27-5-1982. The price of soft coke for industial purposes has however, been fixed at Rs. 300|- per tonne w.e.f. 9-1-1986.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) The impact of the revision of coal prices on three major consuming sectors namely Power, Steel and Railways has been estimated about 3 per cent, 2.83 per cent and 0.9 per cent respectively on their cost of production|operations in a full year and the impact on the economy as whole is estimated at about 0.6 per cent.

Setting up of thermal power units

866. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to allow private sector to set up large sized thermal power units in the country: and

(b) if, how many such proposals are under consideration of Government?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) The policy with regard to the generation and distribution of electricity is regulated by the Industrial Policy Resolution, 1956. According to this Resolution, the generation and distribution of electricity falls under Schedule 'A' category of industries, the future development of which is the exclusive responsibility of the State. The Resolution does not preclude the possibility of the State securing the co-operation of private enterprise in the establishment of new units when the national interest so requires.

As per this policy, Government have allowed replacement/expansion of units in the existing privately-owned power utilities. Permission for captive power units is accorded where the power requirement is substantial and continuous and reliable supply is necessary. Presently, three private sector proposals are under consideration of which two are for installation of captive units.

Awarding contract for HBJ pipeline

867. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to award the work of Hazira-Bijapur-Jagdishpur (HBJ) gas pipeline in Gujarat, and if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) what is the terms and conditions of the contract and what is the role of indigenous companies;

(c) what is the amount of contract, by which year it would be completed and to whom it has been awarded;

(d) if not, what are the reasons for the delay in taking a final decision; and

(e) by when final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) to (e) The recommendations of the Gas Authority of India Limited on the award of contract for the construction of the HBJ gas pipeline are being examined by Government, and a decision is expected to be taken shortly. The project is scheduled to be completed in